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## TENUIFOLIOSE Q, A NEW OLIGOSACCHARIDE ESTER FROM THE ROOT OF *POLYGALA TENUIFOLIA* WILLD.

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From the cortexes of *Polygala tenuifolia* Willd., a new oligosaccharide ester, tenuifoliose Q (**1**), was isolated together with three known compounds. The structure of **1** was elucidated by spectroscopic and physicochemical analysis as an oligosaccharide esterified with acetic, benzoic and *p*-hydroxycinnamoyl acid.

**Keywords:** *Polygala tenuifolia*; Oligosaccharide ester; Tenuifoliose Q

### INTRODUCTION

It has been reported that plenty of oligosaccharide esters have been isolated from the genus of *Polygala* [1–4]. The rarity of structures of this type of constituents inspired us to investigate further for additional oligosaccharide esters from the root of *Polygala tenuifolia* Willd., a well-known traditional Chinese medicine used as an expectorant, tonic, sedative and for preventing dementia [5]. We have already isolated four compounds with this skeleton, and one of which was a new one. Here, we report the isolation and structure elucidation of the new oligosaccharide ester tenuifoliose Q from the cortexes of *Polygala tenuifolia*, together with three known homologous compounds (Fig. 1).

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The *n*-BuOH-soluble parts of the 95% EtOH extract of *P. tenuifolia* were subjected to macroporous resin D101 column chromatography, eluted with gradient EtOH–H<sub>2</sub>O. The 50% aq. EtOH eluate was chromatographed on silica gel, ODS column and by HPLC to afford tenuifoliose Q, along with three known oligosaccharide esters.

Tenuifoliose Q (**1**) was obtained as a white amorphous powder and its molecular formula deduced to be C<sub>65</sub>H<sub>82</sub>O<sub>37</sub> from its TOF-MS (1477 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) and by <sup>13</sup>C NMR analysis.

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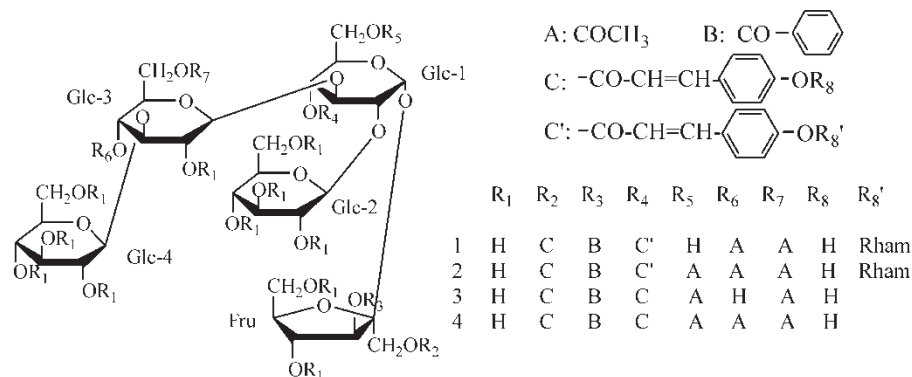


FIGURE 1 Structures of compounds 1–4.

The IR spectrum of **1** showed the presence of hydroxyl groups ( $3405\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), carbonyl group ( $1720\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), double bond ( $1633\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), and aromatic rings ( $1604, 1513, 1452\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1** (see Table I) showed a group of benzoyl proton signals at  $\delta$  8.21 (2H, dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.5\text{ Hz}$ ), 7.60 (2H, t,  $J = 8.0\text{ Hz}$ ) and 7.70 (1H, tt,  $J = 8.0, 1.0\text{ Hz}$ ); two groups of *p*-hydroxycinnamoyl proton signals at  $\delta$  7.37 (2H, d,  $J = 8.0\text{ Hz}$ ), 6.79 (2H, d,  $J = 8.5\text{ Hz}$ ), 6.33 (1H, d,  $J = 16.0\text{ Hz}$ ), 7.64 (1H, d,  $J = 16.5\text{ Hz}$ ), 7.13 (2H, d,  $J = 8.5\text{ Hz}$ ), 7.54 (2H, d,  $J = 8.5\text{ Hz}$ ), 6.32 (1H, d,  $J = 15.5\text{ Hz}$ ) and 7.60 (1H, d,  $J = 15.5\text{ Hz}$ ), together with two acetyl proton signals at  $\delta$  1.98 and 1.51 (3H each, s). In addition, in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1**, there are five anomeric proton signals at  $\delta$  5.86 (1H, d,  $J = 3.0\text{ Hz}$ ), 4.57 (1H, d,  $J = 7.5\text{ Hz}$ ), 4.50 (1H, d,  $J = 8.0\text{ Hz}$ ), 4.45 (1H, d,  $J = 7.5\text{ Hz}$ ), 5.53 (1H, brs) and a H-3 proton signal of fructose at  $\delta$  5.71 (1H, d,  $J = 8.5\text{ Hz}$ ). All these data suggested that **1** is an oligosaccharide esterified with acetic, benzoic and *p*-hydroxycinnamoyl acids. On acid hydrolysis, **1** gave glucose and fructose. The NMR data of **1** are very similar to those of tenuifoliose L [**1**], except that an acetyl signals at  $\delta$  2.06 of tenuifoliose L disappeared in **1**, and the C-6 signal of Glc-1 in **1** shifted 1.7 ppm upfield, while the C-5 signal shifted 3.3 ppm downfield. Therefore, we deduced that the C-6 position of Glc-1 in **1** was perhaps deacetylated. All proton signals were assigned through the TOCSY experiment, and we found that the H-6 signals of Glc-1 in **1** at  $\delta$  3.57 (1H, dd,  $J = 11.5, 5.0\text{ Hz}$ ) and  $\delta$  3.69 (1H, dd,  $J = 11.5, 2.0\text{ Hz}$ ) shifted 0.58 and 0.51 ppm upfield, compared with those signals in tenuifoliose L. Moreover, all the proton signals of Glc-1 in **1** were the same as those of tenuifoliose J [**1**], which does not have an acetyl group at H-6 of Glc-1. Thus, the structure of **1** was concluded to be that shown in Fig. 1.

Compounds **2–4** were identified by comparing their physical and spectral data (Table II) with the literature values, as tenuifoliose L (**2**), tenuifoliose I (**3**) and tenuifoliose H (**4**) [**1**].

## EXPERIMENTAL

### General Experimental Procedures

Optical rotations were measured on a Polartronic D polarimeter. UV spectra were recorded on a TU-1901 spectrophotometer, whereas IR spectra were obtained on an AVATER-360 spectrophotometer. MDL DI-TOF MS spectra were performed with a LDI 1700 spectrometer, using CCA ( $\alpha$ -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid) as matrix, while ESI MS spectra were performed on a QSTAR mass spectrometer.  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, TOCSY, HMQC and HMBC spectra were measured on a Bruker AM-500 spectrometer. D101 resin was from Tianjin

TABLE I <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of compounds **1–4** (500 MHz)<sup>a</sup>

	1	2	3	4
Glc-1	5.86 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 3.0 Hz)	5.89 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 3.5 Hz)	6.62 (1H, brs)	6.62 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 3.5 Hz)
Glc-2	4.57 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.5 Hz)	4.58 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.5 Hz)	5.15 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.0 Hz)	5.10 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)
Glc-3	4.50 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	4.52 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	5.26 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	5.23 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)
Glc-4	4.45 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.5 Hz)	4.45 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	5.08 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.5 Hz)	5.09 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.5 Hz)
Fru	4.26 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 12.0 Hz)	4.27 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 12.0 Hz)	4.81 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 10.5 Hz)	4.85 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 12.0 Hz)
3	4.63 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 12.0 Hz)	4.60 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 12.0 Hz)	5.41 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 12.0 Hz)	5.39 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 12.0 Hz)
Rham	5.71 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.5 Hz)	5.72 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	6.53 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	6.53 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)
1	5.53 (1H, brs)	5.53 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 1.5 Hz)		
6	1.23 (3H, d, <i>J</i> = 6.0 Hz)	1.22 (3H, d, <i>J</i> = 6.0 Hz)		
Ac(R <sub>5</sub> )		2.06 (3H, s)	2.14 (3H, s)	2.15 (3H, s)
Ac(R <sub>6</sub> )	1.98 (3H, s)	1.98 (3H, s)		2.19 (3H, s)
Ac(R <sub>7</sub> )	1.51 (3H, s)	1.51 (3H, s)	1.63 (3H, s)	1.76 (3H, s)
Bz (R <sub>3</sub> )				
2,6	8.21 (2H, dd, <i>J</i> = 8.0, 1.5 Hz)	8.19 (2H, dd, <i>J</i> = 8.0, 1.5 Hz)	8.35 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 6.5 Hz)	8.37 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.0 Hz)
3,5	7.60 (2H, t, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	7.60 (2H, t, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	7.56 (2H, m)	7.58 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.0 Hz)
4	7.70 (1H, tt, <i>J</i> = 8.0, 1.0 Hz)	7.70 (1H, tt, <i>J</i> = 8.0, 1.0 Hz)	7.58 (1H, m)	7.60 (1H, t, <i>J</i> = 6.5 Hz)
Cinn(R <sub>2</sub> )				
2,6	7.37 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	7.35 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.5 Hz)	7.39 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.5 Hz)	7.40 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.5 Hz)
3,5	6.79 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.5 Hz)	6.79 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 9.0 Hz)	7.14 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.5 Hz)	7.14 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)
β	6.33 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)	6.31 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)	6.66 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)	6.66 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)
γ	7.64 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.5 Hz)	7.63 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)	7.92 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)	7.96 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)
Cinn(R <sub>4</sub> )				
2,6	7.54 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.5 Hz)	7.54 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 9.0 Hz)	7.65 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.5 Hz)	7.67 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.5 Hz)
3,5	7.13 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.5 Hz)	7.13 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.5 Hz)	7.21 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 7.5 Hz)	7.22 (2H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.5 Hz)
β	6.32 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 15.5 Hz)	6.30 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)	6.45 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)	6.47 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)
γ	7.60 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 15.5 Hz)	7.59 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)	7.82 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)	7.84 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 16.0 Hz)

<sup>a</sup>Compounds **1** and **2** were measured in MeOH, while compounds **3** and **4** were measured in C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N, and the signal assignments of **3** and **4** were aided by COSY, HMQC and HMBC spectra.

TABLE II  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data of compounds **1**–**4** (125 MHz)<sup>a</sup>

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<i>Tenuifoliose L</i> <sup>[4]</sup>
Glc-1	1	93.5	92.7	91.9	91.8	92.7
	2	81.9	81.3	81.4	81.1	81.3
	3	80.0	79.3	78.4	78.3	79.3
	4	70.8	70.5	69.7	69.8	70.5
	5	72.9	69.6	69.0	68.8	69.6
	6	62.6	64.3	63.5	63.3	64.3
Glc-2	1	105.9	105.4	105.6	106.2	105.3
	2	75.3	75.3	75.4	75.4	75.8
	3	79.0	78.5	78.3	78.9	78.5
	4	72.1	71.5	71.3	71.6	71.5
	5	78.3	77.7	77.9	78.0	77.7
	6	63.6	63.1	63.0	63.0	63.1
Glc-3	1	104.7	104.1	104.2	103.8	104.1
	2	75.9	75.4	74.1	73.3	75.4
	3	83.9	83.4	88.0	84.1	83.4
	4	70.1	69.6	69.0	69.1	69.6
	5	72.9	72.4	73.9	71.8	72.4
	6	63.6	63.1	63.6	63.0	63.1
Glc-4	1	105.9	105.4	105.4	105.7	105.3
	2	76.3	75.8	75.4	76.0	75.7
	3	78.9	78.4	77.9	78.0	78.4
	4	72.1	71.5	71.3	71.3	71.5
	5	78.4	77.9	78.4	78.0	77.9
	6	63.4	62.8	62.2	62.4	62.8
Fru	1	66.8	66.3	64.9	65.1	66.3
	2	104.2	103.7	103.5	103.4	103.7
	3	80.9	80.4	79.6	79.8	80.4
	4	74.2	74.0	73.9	73.3	74.0
	5	85.1	84.7	84.8	84.9	84.7
	6	63.8	63.9	63.3	62.6	63.9
Rham	1	99.5	99.6			100.1
	2	72.4	71.9			71.8
	3	72.7	72.2			72.1
	4	74.1	73.7			73.7
	5	71.4	70.9			70.9
	6	18.6	18.1			18.1
Ac(R5)	1		172.5	170.7	170.7	172.5
	2		20.8	20.7	20.8	20.8
Ac(R6)	1	172.5	172.0		170.1	172.0
	2	21.6	21.1		20.9	21.1
Ac(R7)	1	172.7	172.2	170.7	170.6	172.2
	2	20.9	20.4	20.4	20.4	20.4
Bz(R3)	1	131.5	131.0	130.3	130.3	131.0
	2,6	131.6	131.0	130.3	130.3	131.0
	3,5	130.5	130.0	129.0	129.1	130.0
	4	135.4	134.9	133.8	133.8	134.9
	$\alpha$	167.7	167.1	166.3	166.3	167.1
Cinn(R2)	1	127.6	127.1	125.9	125.8	127.1
	2,6	131.8	131.2	130.7	130.8	131.2
	3,5	117.5	116.9	116.6	116.9	116.9
	4	161.9	161.4	161.5	161.7	161.3
	$\alpha$	168.9	168.4	166.8	166.8	168.3
	$\beta$	115.4	114.9	114.6	114.6	114.9
	$\gamma$	147.4	146.9	145.8	145.6	146.9
Cinn(R4)	1	130.1	129.6	125.8	125.8	129.5
	2,6	131.7	131.1	130.7	130.8	131.1
	3,5	118.4	117.9	116.8	116.7	117.9
	4	160.2	159.7	161.6	161.5	159.7
	$\alpha$	168.2	167.5	166.6	166.5	167.5
	$\beta$	117.4	116.7	114.5	114.6	116.7
	$\gamma$	146.4	146.1	145.6	145.8	146.1

<sup>a</sup> Compounds **1** and **2** were measured in MeOH, while compounds **3** and **4** were measured in  $\text{C}_5\text{D}_5\text{N}$ . and the signal assignments of **3** and **4** were aided by COSY, HMQC and HMBC spectra.

Chemical Co., and the column chromatography silica gel (200–300 mesh) was supplied by the Qingdao Marine Chemical Factory.

### Plant Material

The cortexes of *P. tenuifolia* were collected from Shanxi Province, in October 2000. The plant was identified by one of the authors (P.F. Tu). A voucher specimen (No. 001020) is deposited in the herbarium of School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Peking University, Beijing, China.

### Extraction and Isolation

The air-dried roots of *P. tenuifolia* (11 kg) were ground and refluxed three times with 95% EtOH (77 L). The 95% EtOH solution was then combined and evaporated *in vacuo* to yield 4.9 kg of residue, a portion (2 kg) of which was suspended in water and extracted successively with light petroleum, CHCl<sub>3</sub> and n-BuOH. Parts of the n-BuOH extract (325 g) were subjected to a macroporous resin D101 column (11.5 × 85.5 cm). The adsorbed material was eluted with H<sub>2</sub>O, 20, 50, 70, and 95% EtOH, respectively. The 50% EtOH eluate (78 g) was chromatographed on silica gel (1.6 kg), eluting with CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O in a gradient manner (500 : 1 : 0 → 60 : 40 : 5). Fractions 79–95 (4 g) was first subjected to ODS column chromatography, then purified by HPLC with MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O (50:50) as mobile phase to furnish **3** (45.6 mg) and **4** (139.2 mg). Fractions 96–114 (3 g) were also first subjected to ODS column chromatography, MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O (20 : 80 → 80 : 20) as the eluting solvent, to give 20 fractions; fractions 9–10 were then further subjected to Sephadex LH-20 and finally purified by HPLC, with MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O (50:50) as mobile phase to furnish **2** (72.1 mg). Fractions 133–149 (3 g) were first subjected to ODS column chromatography, then purified by HPLC with MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O (45:55) as mobile phase to furnish **1** (46.9 mg).

Tenuifolioside Q (**1**), white amorphous [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>24</sup> powder,  $-92.8$  ( $c = 0.85$ , MeOH). IR  $\nu_{\max}^{\text{KBr}}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3405 (OH), 1720 (C=O), 1633 (C=C), 1604, 1513, 1452 (aromatic ring). TOF-MS (CCA as matrix)  $m/z$ : 1477 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data: Table I. <sup>13</sup>C NMR data: Table II.

Tenuifolioside L (**2**), white amorphous powder, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>24</sup>  $-46.4$  ( $c = 0.85$ , MeOH). TOF-MS (CCA as matrix)  $m/z$ : 1519 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data: Table I. <sup>13</sup>C NMR data: Table II.

Tenuifolioside I (**3**), white amorphous powder, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>24</sup>  $-10.7$  ( $c = 0.89$ , MeOH). ESI-MS  $m/z$ : 1369 [M + 18]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data: Table I. <sup>13</sup>C NMR data: Table II.

Tenuifolioside H (**4**), white amorphous powder, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>24</sup>  $-60.2$  ( $c = 0.82$ , MeOH). ESI-MS  $m/z$ : 1327[M + 18]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data: Table I. <sup>13</sup>C NMR data: Table II.

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